

May 1, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The mobile phone industry is an oligopoly, and this merger will reduce it to an effective duopoly.

The only areas wireless companies currently compete and innovate is in ways to lock in consumers, and stick them with high fees and charges for minimal services such as termination fees, SMS charges, 'tethering' fees, and roaming charges. The entire billing structure is designed to force users to either get locked into a high subscription plan for features that are not used, or risk getting hit with high overage charges.

The US wireless system is the laughingstock of the developed world, and much of the developing world.

The FCC should not be allowing the industry to reduce competition further, but should be looking at how to eliminate practices which lock consumers in and reduce competition, and at how foster a market structure where companies compete on service and technical innovation.

Sincerely,  
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